

## ADVISORY COMMISSION OF SPECIAL EDUCATION

November 16, 2000  
**MEETING MINUTES**

|                     |
|---------------------|
| APPROVED<br>1/25/01 |
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QUEEN MARY HOTEL, GRAND SALON  
1126 QUEENS HIGHWAY  
LONG BEACH, CA 90802

**Thursday, November 16, 2000**

### **Commission Members Present**

Loeb Aronin, Chair  
Allison Brightman  
Karla Geller  
Shirley Kaltenborn  
Janet Mangini  
Lawrence Siegel

Louis Cassani, Vice-Chair  
Patricia Flores-Charter  
Angela Hawkins  
Julie Kennedy  
Barbara Monroe  
Linda Wyatt

### **Student Members Present**

Shawn Mohammed

Danielle Morin

### **Legislative Members Absent**

Charles Poochigian, Senate Member

Susan Davis, Assembly Member

### **Governor's Office, Deputy of Education K-12, Liaison Absent**

Vacant

### **State Board of Education Liaison Absent**

Susan Hammer

Kathryn Dronenburg

### **Department of Education Staff Present**

Ronald S. Kadish, Director,  
State Special Schools

Yolanda Starr, Commission Secretary

### **Department of Education Staff Absent**

Alice D. Parker, Executive Secretary  
Director, Special Education Division

Janet Canning, Staff Liaison

**Thursday, November 16, 2000**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Loeb Aronin called the meeting to order at 8:40 a.m. Roll was taken and a quorum was present.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Commissioner Julie Kennedy announced she will present a workshop on special education issues and focus on uniting stakeholders at the California School Board Association's annual meeting in Long Beach during the last week in November 2000.

**OPERATIONS AND PLANNING MEETING REPORT**

The Operations and Planning Meeting was held on Wednesday evening November 15, 2000. Points of discussion were:

- State Superintendent of Public Instruction Delaine Eastin's letter to the Commission regarding the appointment of Dr. Alice Parker as Executive Secretary to the Commission.
- Information for parent groups, Special Education Local Plan Areas (SELPA's) and other interested parties will be disseminated in a manner similar to that currently utilized by the Department for official announcements. This information will include meeting location, the agenda, letters, special meetings, etc.
- The California Association of Resource Specialists and Special Education Teachers (CARS+) Conference on February 23-24, 2001, DoubleTree Hotel, Sacramento. The Commission will hold its meeting in conjunction with the CARS+ Conference. The O&P meeting to be Wednesday, February 22, 2000, 6:00-8:00 p.m., Holiday Inn, 3<sup>rd</sup> & J Streets, Sacramento.
- California Association of School Psychologists (CASP) will meet on March 7-10, 2001, DoubleTree Hotel, Costa Mesa.
- California Speech and Hearing Association will meet April 5-8, 2001, Monterey.
- Topics covered at Learning Disabilities Association (LDA) Conference, i.e., High School Exit Exam testing, mediation and due process hearings.
- The Commission's relationship to the California Department of Education (CDE) and the four appointing bodies.
- Distribution of Annual Reports
- Legislative bills to be sent to Commissioners who are tracking a particular bill and not everyone will receive all the bills.
- Letter sent to John Mockler requesting a meeting in December.
- Specific Learning Disability Workshop

**STUDENT MEMBER'S REPORT**

Student Member Danielle Morin reported she used her knowledge of organizational contacts to assist a student who had been discriminated against.

**LIAISON REPORTS**

Commissioner Linda Wyatt reported she attended a meeting where the Department of Rehabilitation (DR) and CDE signed an Interagency Agreement funding transition partnership programs, and WorkAbility Two programs that serve students with disabilities.

**APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 19-20, 2000 MINUTES:**

Page 2 of the October 19 minutes, under Operations & Planning Meeting Report: sixth bullet should read, "Commissioners Barbara Monroe and Shirley Kaltenborn will be the liaisons, etc."

**M/S/C 00-11-01**

**MOTIONED THAT MINUTES BE ACCEPTED AS CORRECTED.  
Monroe/Kaltenborn**

**Presentation: Status of Due Process Hearing System: Glenn Fait, Director, Special Education California Hearing Office, McGeorge School of Law, Sacramento,** presented a statistical comparison of McGeorge's progress during the years 1990-1991 and 1999-2000:

| Mediation Process Requests |           | Hearing Requests |           | Mediation Dispositions |           | Hearing Decisions Issued |           | Settlements on First Hearing Day |           |
|----------------------------|-----------|------------------|-----------|------------------------|-----------|--------------------------|-----------|----------------------------------|-----------|
| 1990-1991                  | 1999-2000 | 1990-1991        | 1999-2000 | 1990-1991              | 1999-2000 | 1990-1991                | 1999-2000 | 1990-1991                        | 1999-2000 |
| None                       | 92        | 611              | 2,100     | 545                    | 2,187     | 64                       | 77        | 7                                | 79        |

Mr. Fait stated McGeorge School of Law plans to change methodology in figuring statistics for mediation success rates to better reflect the actual success rate. Current procedures understate their relatively high success rate.

Some initiatives under the new contract effective June 2000 to 2002, include:

- Salary increase of \$50-\$75/hour for mediators;
- Hearing Officer compensation increase of \$61,000-\$82,000/year;
- Additional support staff hired;
- Four additional hearing officers hired and more to be recruited;
- Three and one-half weeks of formal training for hearing officers;
- Expedited hearings will be done upon parent requests;
- Increased data collection;
- Notice of Procedural Safeguards to be written by the end of 2000;
- Development of Mediation and Hearing Officer Observation forms;
- Translation of documents into five languages.

Mr. Fait proposed that after a decision has been made at a hearing, McGeorge will cease its involvement. McGeorge School of Law will meet with the California Department of Education's (CDE's) Legal Office to obtain a decision on this proposal.

**Special Education Division Report: Jim Bellotti, Manager, Administrative Services Unit, California Department of Education,** gave a brief description of his background in providing services to children, youth and adults with disabilities for the last 30 years in California. He worked for

community based organizations, programs on special and adult education, a board appointed by the Governor, similar to the Commission in its responsibility to advocate for persons with developmental disabilities. In addition, Mr. Bellotti has been with the CDE for the last seven years providing service in various capacities, and is currently managing the Administrative Services Unit of the Special Education Division. Mr. Bellotti distributed several informational items: an organizational chart detailing the distribution of 30 new positions SED received, a Verification Review Schedule for 2000-2001 listing school districts that will undergo verification reviews, and flow chart on the verification process. (See handouts) The Verification Review Schedule may be accessed on the SED's web site:

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/spbranch/sed>

**State Special Schools Division Report, Dr. Ron Kadish, Director**, reiterated his appreciation to the Commission for holding its October meeting at the California School for the Blind in Fremont. The staff and students were very enthusiastic in being given the opportunity to host the Commission. In addition, Dr. Kadish report on the following:

- The Diagnostic Center in Fresno entered into an agreement with the Fullbright Administrator's Exchange Program, resulting in two Argentinean special education administrators visiting the center for two weeks.
- Representatives from the Diagnostic Centers attended a training by the Special Education Administrators for County Offices of Education (SEACO) on their newly completed Alternative Curriculum Guide for students with severe disabilities. Members of the Commission may be interested in having an overview presentation of the guide.
- The CSB is planning several innovative programs this summer for blind and visually impaired students not enrolled at CSB. These include technology projects, writer's workshops, and a one-week preschool sports camp.

Comments:

Chair Aronin expressed his appreciation for the CSB's efforts in ensuring a successful Commission meeting. The students' progress and skills were particularly impressive.

**PROGRAM/POLICY COMMITTEE:**

**2001 Sunset Review Report and Public Input: Allan Simmons, retired annuitant**, briefed the Commission on the 1997 Sunset Report written by Jim Bellotti and on the 1999 revision of the Sunset Report. The new sunset date has been set to June 2001 unless the Legislature extends it. Mr. Simmons stated another sunset report needed to be prepared and a letter with a survey was sent to various parent organizations and stakeholders with a response date of December 15, 2000. Another Public Input opportunity is scheduled for the January Commission meeting.

**PUBLIC INPUT**

Jan Jones-Wadsworth, Consultant, California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC), Sacramento, updated the Commission on the Administrative Services Task Force that CTC will initiate. The task force will conduct four forums including public hearings throughout California and will be made available through the CTC's web site. Hearings will be held in Sacramento, Fresno, San Diego and Los

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Angeles County. Dr. Jones-Wadsworth suggested she would provide updates on the task force at the Commission's next meeting.

John Hess, SELPA Chair and Director, Whittier Area Cooperative, Whittier, updated the Commission on SELPA's activities.

- Align the California code with federal law.
- Have a senator or congressperson carry a bill.
- Contact legislature to acquire federal funding for districts and SELPAs.
- SELPA's response to proposed physical education guidelines.

Three parents voiced their concerns that the Community Advisory Committee in their school districts was not meeting their children's needs. Some of the issues revolved around not getting timely information, training for parents, having Individualized Education Program (IEP) workshops at every school with parent teams conducting the workshops, and lack of support of low-income parents who have children with disabilities.

**Presentation: Roy Applegate, California Association of School Psychologists (CASP) and Assistant Superintendent and SELPA Director**, spoke about the CASP's interests and activities. CASP is involved in two broad initiatives: member services and promoting best educational practices for children in schools. A strategic plan outlining CASP's activities includes:

- Continuation of adequate funding.
- Promote research-based practices for children.
- Develop coalitions with other groups within California.
- Support Legislative program.
- Support membership and public education.

Interest areas include: Impact of high school exit exam on special education students, accountability issues, crisis intervention, and a Certification Program.

Further information may be accessed at CASP's web site: [casponline.org](http://casponline.org)

Since there was no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

**Friday, November 17, 2000**

**Commission Members Present**

|                           |                         |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| Loeb Aronin, Chair        | Allison Brightman       |
| Louis Cassani, Vice-Chair | Patricia Flores-Charter |
| Karla Geller              | Angela Hawkins          |
| Shirley Kaltenborn        | Julie Kennedy           |
| Veronica Lomeli           | Janet Mangini           |
| Barbara Monroe            | Lawrence Siegel         |
| Linda Wyatt               |                         |

**Student Members Present**

|                |                |
|----------------|----------------|
| Shawn Mohammed | Danielle Morin |
|----------------|----------------|

**Legislative Members Absent**

|                              |                                   |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Susan Davis, Assembly Member | Charles Poochigian, Senate Member |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|

**Governor's Office, Deputy of Education K-12, Liaison Absent**

Christine Aranda

**State Board of Education Liaison Absent**

|              |                    |
|--------------|--------------------|
| Susan Hammer | Kathryn Dronenburg |
|--------------|--------------------|

**Department of Education Staff Present**

Yolanda Starr, Commission Secretary

**Department of Education Staff Absent**

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| Ronald S. Kadish, Director,<br>State Special Schools | Alice D. Parker, Executive Secretary<br>Director, Special Education Division |
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Janet Canning, Staff Liaison

**Friday, November 17, 2000**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Loeb Aronin called the meeting to order at 8:40 a.m. Roll was taken and a quorum was present.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Commissioner Shirley Kaltenborn announced the Commission received \$780 from dinner guests at the recognition dinner on November 16, 2000. The bill was \$827; the balance of \$47.79 will be deducted from the Commission's floating fund. The balance in the ACSE member individually supported floating fund is \$169.21.

Commissioner Lawrence Siegel announced he and Commissioner Allison Brightman would communicate through e-mail regarding the stakeholder meeting held on November 16 and get recommendations from Commissioners on the desired outcome. A formal synopsis of the last two meetings will be developed and shared with the attendees.

Chair Aronin shared an article he retrieved from the National Association of School Psychologists' web site. The article titled, "Alarming Outcomes for Students with Disabilities," by Gordon Riffle, Special Assistant to the State Superintendent of Education, Illinois.

**Presentation: Autism – Incidence and Programs: Mary Owens, Educational Specialist, Southern California Diagnostic Center, Los Angeles**, provided an informational handout on the background of autism which was first described in 1943 by Dr. Leo Kanner. Information included the incidence rate, causes, and education programming issues such as placements, methodology, the early years, and increased inclusion in elementary years in autism. (See handout)

**Presentation: Charter Schools Committee: Yvonne Chan, Committee Chair and Principal, Vaughn Next Century Learning Center, San Fernando**, spoke to the Commission regarding charter schools and special education. Mrs. Chan shared a flow chart describing the difference between dependent and independent charter schools. In addition, the flow chart provided information on choices facing independent charter schools. Mrs. Chan stated the ultimate goal was to serve special education students and their families by working with them on an individual basis. (See handout)

**PUBLIC INPUT:**

**Ron Kipp, parent of two children with developmental disabilities and a Transition Specialist, Los Angeles County Office of Education, Torrance**, spoke to the Commission on Age of Majority-Transfer of Parental Rights. Mr. Kipp shared a copy of the *Federal Register/Vol. 64, No. 48/Friday, March 12, 1999, Rules and Regulations (IDEA '97)*. Though a conservatorship hearing is an avenue by which parents or individuals can represent students' rights, Mr. Kipp found problems with this process. Mr. Kipp recommended that the Commission establish a task force or committee to study this issue and make recommendations for legislative changes to provide procedural guidelines for school districts. (See handout)

Debbie Baehler, California Association of Resource Specialists and Special Education Teachers (CARS+) President, provided Commissioners with the Fall 2000 issue of CARS+ Newsletter which included information on their conference to be held in Sacramento on February 23-24, 2001 at the DoubleTree Hotel. In addition, Mrs. Baehler gave an update on data collected from their survey on caseloads. Mrs. Baehler stated the surveys received to date, showed an alarmingly high trend in caseloads for both SDC and RSP teachers despite caseload caps. Since the deadline for responding to the surveys was extended to December 31, 2000, Mrs. Baehler would provide the final survey results at the Commission's meeting in January.

Christa Irvine, Special Education Community Advisory Committee (CAC) Secretary, Long Beach, provided a copy of the Long Beach Unified School District's CAC newsletter and spoke to the Commission on what the CAC does. Some of the activities the CAC is involved in are providing education for parents in the district, speakers, the newsletter twice a year, community events. The CAC may be accessed at their web site address: <http://www.irvinecomputers.com/cac.html>

**Presentation: Assistive Technology Certificate Programs, Mary Ann Glicksman, Executive Director, Computer Access Center, Los Angeles and Lisa Wahl, Consultant, Alliance for Technology Access, Berkeley** presented the Commission with a packet of information on professional development opportunities in assistive technology. Included in the handouts were a brochure outlining the Computer Access Center's role, information on requirements and tuition to obtain a Certificate in Assistive Technology in Education, and the 1997 Annual Report. (See handouts)

Ms. Glicksman requested the Commission to recommend that the CDE form a task force for the development of criteria for assistive technology training programs that school districts can use to certify their staff to work with students. In addition, Ms. Glicksman stated the program she and Ms. Wahl developed could be used as a model.

Comments:

Chair Aronin stated he would follow-up with the Special Education Division regarding the assistive technology process

**Stakeholder Meeting Follow-up:**

Commissioner Allison Brightman stated the next step in the stakeholder process was to form a steering committee that included Commissioners, representatives from California Teachers Association (CTA) and other groups that have a stake in general education. In addition, Commissioner Brightman stated a corporate sponsor would provide public relations and lobbying expertise. Commissioner Brightman requested Commissioners e-mail her or Commissioner Larry Siegel with suggestions on who to have on the steering committee.

Verbal suggestions included:

- Contact coalitions first.
- Attend coalition meetings throughout California.
- Do something in January 2001 and involve legislators.
- Resolve current issues.

- Specify vision for California students.
- Have a plan – not concentrate only on funding.
- Address issues such as the teacher shortage, classroom size.
- Cost savings can be realized; without funding there will be no employee program.
- Upgrade school staff development.
- Focus on improving students' lives, not on funding solely.
- Obtain leadership from various groups such as CARS+, SELPA, to guide the Commission in steps needed to proceed with the goal.
- Commission to focus on targeting funding and specify issues the money would be used for.
- Not have the Commission spend too much time in forming a steering committee or coalition since there were some already in place.
- Have the Commission contact the Legislature on a regular basis and focus on issues such as class size.
- Add Coalition for Adequate Funding to the January agenda.
- Develop a statement so all Commissioners contacting legislators say the same thing.
- Meet with John Mockler, Interim Secretary for Education before January meeting.

Chair Aronin agreed to inquire about the 1-20 ratios with Paul Hinkle, Consultant, SED. In addition he requested Commissioners to submit their priorities regarding programs, such class size reduction, teacher increase, etc.

It was decided Commissioners would contact their legislators between November 2000 and January 2001 and present some of the issues.

Since there was no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.